U.S.–RUSSIA
PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUE PROGRAM

US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

To help foster greater contacts between Americans and Russians, the U.S. Department of State announces the FY 2015 U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program, which will provide grants up to **$100,000** to support unique projects centered on **Russian-American, peer-to-peer collaboration, including an exchange of best practices between Russians and Americans on a topic of mutual interest.**

Projects must be non-political in nature and focus on Russian-American peer-to-peer dialogue or people-to-people engagement on themes of mutual interest. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate innovative methodologies to accomplish program goals and foster interaction among peers. Successful projects will result in a product or outcome which enhances interaction and understanding between our two societies.

The program competition and selection will be administered in two stages. In Stage One, applicants must submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), as outlined under "Application and Submission Information" below. Successful applicants from Stage One will be requested to submit a detailed proposal for consideration during Stage Two (guidelines for Stage Two will be provided via email to successful applicants). It is anticipated that approximately 30 grants will be awarded under this competition, pending availability of funds.

For examples of previously funded projects under the U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program, please refer to the following website: http://moscow.usembassy.gov/us-russiadialogue.html.

The deadline to submit Statements of Interest is Monday, March 9, 2015, 18:00 Moscow time (11:00 EDT).

FUNDING AUTHORITY
Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations...and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program is also supported by funds designated under The Foreign Assistance Act (FAA).

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

American and Russian non-commercial organizations and academic institutions (both Public and Private) are eligible to apply. A proposal must include one Russian and one American organization; a letter of intent from the proposed partner must be included with the Statement of Interest as an attachment. Commercial firms are not eligible to apply under this program.

Organizations which have received a Peer-to-Peer grant in the past are not eligible to apply.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Peer-to-Peer projects may focus on any theme including, but not limited to higher education, cultural exchange, journalism, environment, community development, social services, public health, civil society, etc. Projects should be original, creative, and dynamic and focus on sharing innovative practices unique to each country. Potential activities may include but are not limited to short-term exchanges, web-chats, seminars, interactive training, the development of online resources, and classroom activities. Potential applicants must ensure that project activities are directly tied to the goals of the project, and are encouraged to introduce new and unique approaches to facilitating peer-to-peer interaction and the exchange of best practices. Successful project will be results-driven and have a multiplier effect.

Cost-sharing is encouraged, but not required.

Please note: Projects that include political activity or focus primarily on academic or scientific research will not be supported. The U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program is not intended to support core administrative funding for applicant organizations or to provide continued funding for existing, ongoing activities between two established partners.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Statements of Interest (SOIs) should be submitted no later than 18:00 Moscow time (11:00 EDT), Monday, March 9, 2015, to US-RussiaP2P@state.gov. The email subject line for the SOI submission should be the name of the applicant organization.

Statements of Interest should provide a brief description of the proposed project following the guidelines below. In addition, the Statement of Interest must:
- be submitted in English
- not exceed three (3) single-spaced pages (including budget)
- be saved under the name of the applicant organization
- be submitted in Microsoft Word, 12-point font

Technically-eligible SOIs must include the following sections:

- **Project Name:** Provide a unique project title

- **Applicant Organization**: Provide the name and a brief description, focusing on the organization's experience relevant to the proposed project. Please include at least one name and e-mail address as a point of contact

- **Partner Organization:** Provide the name and a brief description, focusing on the organization's experience relevant to the proposed project. Please include at least one name and e-mail address of a point of contact. A letter of intent from the proposed partner should be attached to the SOI.

- **Program Description:** Describe the proposed project, focusing on the following:
  o What is the main issue/problem to be addressed?
  o Why is it significant?
  o What are the key activities under the project and how will the applicant successfully carry them out?
  o Who are the direct beneficiaries of the project?
  o How is the project original and innovative?
  o What are the anticipated outcomes or results of the project?

- **Budget:** Provide a budget summary (not detailed line-by-line breakdown) of your proposal using the following general categories:
  o Personnel (salaries and fringe benefits)
  o Travel (tickets, lodging, per diem)
  o Supplies (program materials, office supplies related to the project)
  o Contractual (consultants, interpreters, sub-grants, other)
  o Other Direct Costs (room rental, communication etc.)
  o Indirect Costs (if applicable)

PROPOSAL SELECTION AND TIMELINE

SELECTION

The U.S. Embassy Moscow will review all Statements of Interest (SOI) for technical eligibility using the following criteria:

1. Applicant organization meets the eligibility requirements.
2. Project Period /Work Plan does not exceed one calendar year.
3. SOI submission includes letter of intent from partner organization.
4. Project does not include political or strictly research-related activities.
5. Total budget does not exceed $100,000.
6. SOI submission received via email to by the published deadline (see timeline).
7. Applicant organization submitted only one application.

All SOIs which meet the technical eligibility requirements will be competitively reviewed by a selection committee consisting of representatives of several U.S. Embassy Moscow sections, using the following criteria:

1. Quality of the Project Idea: SOI clearly describes issue/problem to be addressed. Project goals and activities are concrete, relevant, realistic, and non-political in nature.
2. Project Planning: The applicant and partner organization, participants and beneficiaries are clearly identified. The work plan is realistic and enables project objectives to be achieved during the project performance period. Appropriate and innovative methods are used to meet project goals.
3. Institutional Capacity: Applicant and partner organization clearly demonstrate their experience with the proposed subject matter, and their ability to successfully implement the project.
4. Program Monitoring and Evaluation: Project Plan should provide sufficient detail on program monitoring and evaluation during the project performance period, as well as demonstrate an understanding of potential risks and challenges associated with the project.
5. Cost Effectiveness: Budget demonstrates efficient use of funds, appropriate to achieve project goals. The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be consistent with project plans and activities.

All decisions concerning a project's technical eligibility and potential are final. Only those SOI applicants invited to participate in Stage Two are eligible to submit full proposals.

TIMELINE

February 3:	Competition announced.
March 9	**18:00 Moscow Time (11:00 EDT)**
	Deadline to submit Statements of Interest to US-RussiaP2P@state.gov. The Peer-to-Peer office will confirm receipt of submissions and inform applicants if the submission was received after the stated deadline (shown by the time stamp on each email).
April 6:	All Stage One applicants notified of selection committee decision. Successful applicants invited to submit Stage Two proposal narratives and budget. Detailed instructions and application materials will be provided.
May 22:	Deadline for Stage Two proposal narratives and budgets.
June 26:	All Stage Two applicants notified of selection committee decision.
July 2015:	Grant negotiations, if applicable.
August 2015:	Grants awarded to successful Stage Two applicants.
September 2015:	Project Activities Begin.
September 2016:	Deadline for Project Activities to Conclude (may end sooner).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Organizations are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the U.S. Government. This

number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access http://www.dunandbradstreet.com or call 1-866-705-5711. Please ensure that your DUNS number is included in the appropriate box of the SF – 424 which is part of the formal application package (applicable to Stage Two submissions).

All federal award recipients must maintain current registrations in the System for Award Management (SAM) database. Recipients must maintain accurate and up-to-date information in www.SAM.gov until all program and financial activity and reporting have been completed. Recipients must review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration and more frequently if required information changes or another award is granted. Failure to register in SAM will render applicants ineligible to receive funding.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Terms and Conditions for the Administration of this program include the following:

1) New federal assistance regulations at 2 CFR 200 titled *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*.
2) U.S. Department of State Terms and Conditions

Issuance of the Notice of Funding Opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The U.S. Embassy reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on projects funded under the FY 2014 competition, please see the program webpage: http://moscow.usembassy.gov/us-russiadialogue.html.

For questions or more information, please email US-RussiaP2P@state.gov.